

Amendments to the Specification

[0021] FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of an end side of the utility bag of FIG. 1 in the upright folded or stacked position;

[0034] Referring initially to FIGs. 1 through 3, a utility bag 10 of a preferred embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. This particular bag 10 is divided into first, second and third compartments 20, 30, 40. Compartmentalizing bag 10 in this way facilitates organizing items and improves access to those items. FIG. 1 illustrates bag 10 in an opened or unfolded position. In contrast, FIG. 2 displays a side view of an end side of the utility bag 10 in a stacked or folded position. As shown in original FIG. 2, the utility bag 10 has a height that is about twice its width when viewed from the end side. Importantly, compartments 20, 30, 40 are connected by first and second articulation segments 22, and 24 that are located on opposite sides of the utility bag when viewed from an end, as shown in FIGs. 2 and 3. The articulation segments 22, 24, in conjunction with the illustrated height to width ratio, allow utility bag 10 to be folded and transformed from the stacked position (FIG. 2) to the opened position (FIG. 1) through the substantially sideways and downward motion of the third, topmost compartment 40 as illustrated in original FIGS. 2-5. As shown in FIG. 3, compartments 20, 30, 40 are rotated about the articulation segments 22, 24 when bag 10 is being folded and unfolded. It is also important to note that the first compartment 20 and the third compartment remain upright in both the stacked and opened positions. Conversely, compartment 30 is upright when the utility bag 10 is opened in FIG. 1, and is inverted when the utility bag is folded to the stacked position in FIG. 2. Stated differently, first and second compartments 20, 30 have bottom portions 26, 28, respectively, that face in an upward direction when the bag is in the opened position. Further, when bag 10 is in

the stacked position, bottom portion 26 remains facing upward, however, bottom portion 28 faces in a downward direction. The upward direction is further defined as the positive y-axis direction in FIG. 1 and the downward inverted direction is the negative y-axis direction.

[0037] FIG. 4 and FIG. 5 again show utility bag 10 being unfolded about articulation segments 22, 24. As shown in FIG. 6, articulation segments 22, 24 are in the form of a strip of material covering a seam in a preferred embodiment. The articulation segments 22, 24 provide a jointed formation for the utility bag 10 to be unfolded. While the utility bag 10 is in the stacked position, first and second zippers 32, 34 secure compartments 20, 30, 40 in place as shown in FIG. 6. As shown in the preferred embodiment of Figure 8, the first zipper 32 has separable halves (not separately numbered) that are connected to peripheral edges of the bottom and middle compartments 20, 30, respectively, and the second zipper 34 has separable halves (not separately numbered) that are connected to peripheral edges of the middle and top compartments 30, 40, respectively. Other suitable means are contemplated by the present invention to secure compartments 20, 30, and 40 while in the stacked position.